

I am writing this comment as a concerned Rural citizen.
I feel we are being left out of the transition to HDTV.
I live in a small valley approximatly 15 miles long and
5 miles wide (population approximatly 7200) 50 miles from
Salt Lake City but there is a 9000 ft. mountain range between
me and Salt Lake so the local over the air TV stations (6 total)
that I receive are from Translators. When I ask the Translator
board of directors about HDTV and additional Salt Lake local
channels they tell me they have been unable to get additional
channel licenses because the FCC groups them with LPTV and only
opens windows for licensing, and that the last window was over 4
years ago. I understand the FCC has mandated that TV set
manufacturers put digital tuners in new sets they sell in 2004
and that the TV stations in Salt Lake City are transmitting
digital at this time and will switch to totally digital in 2006.
What will happen to rural america in 2006 ?. The only thing I
could find on the Mass media burea's web site was dated 1999

<http://ftp.fcc.gov/oet/faqs/dtv-tvtx.html>

Therefore I support the National Translator Association Proposal
to establish a rural Translator Service so the FCC can address
the special needs of Translators. So far I feel rural americans
have been negleted. We can get local stations via satelite for a
price but it is not HDTV and the local cable company gets there
local tv channels from the translators. I hope the FCC can support
the rural translator groups so they can do a transition to HDTV.

Sincerely
Robert VanScoyk
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